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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Item 4 (a)

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 12th meeting, on 18 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 5)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 5 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Speakers expressed appreciation for the efforts being made to improve the capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat to address a wide variety of conflict situations; and to plan, establish, manage and direct existing and future peacekeeping operations. Improvements in the capacity and structure should be backed by corresponding resources. In terms of the implementation of the results-based budget, some improvements still needed to be made: it was evident that while progress had been made in the results-based presentation, indicators of achievement could be refined further in order to better assess performance. The expected accomplishments for executive direction and management should set more specific management outcomes. The desirability of

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having a performance indicator with respect to geographical representation of staff was pointed out.

4. It was pointed out that in paragraph 3.3 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1) it had been stated that special attention would also be given to an increased understanding and recognition of gender issues and geographical balance in peacekeeping operations; and that in paragraph 5.5 in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, this important element of equitable geographical distribution had disappeared. In this connection, the view was expressed that such important elements of the medium-term plan should be included in the narrative of the programme budget, and that in table 5.9, entitled "Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures", expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be amended in accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the medium-term plan.

5. Concerns were expressed regarding the identification of a number of external factors. The view was expressed that some of the external factors were in fact internal, while others were outside the control of the Secretariat. In that connection, references were made to the external factors noted in paragraphs 5.29 and 5.39.

6. On the overview of the section, the view was expressed that the first sentence and the last two sentences of paragraph 5.9 should be deleted; and that the paragraph should include only the second sentence, which would be amended to read: "The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002, noted that the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/57/387 and Corr.1) to transfer the functions and resources of the Cartographic Section from the Department of Public Information to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005."

7. Under executive direction and management, it was noted that the text of paragraph 5.22 could be reformulated to exactly match table 5.10. It may be useful, therefore, to combine the first two sentences by inserting the word "and" between the words "Secretary-General" and "non-post resources".

8. On subprogramme 1, Operations, it was noted that the performance measures between 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 reflected no change. The view was expressed that the time required to complete the mission-planning process in line with Security Council demands could be accelerated to less than 10 weeks. The view was expressed that the period should be shortened as much as possible. Queries were also raised why only 80 per cent of the benchmarks would be met by the mission in mandate implementation within the existing time frame. Clarification was sought on when the remaining 20 per cent of the benchmark would be met.

9. With respect to paragraph 5.26, the view was expressed that the first two sentences and the last two sentences could be deleted; and that the paragraph should read: "The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002, noted the proposal of the Secretary-General to transfer the functions and resources of the Cartographic Section from the Department of Public Information to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, while maintaining the services currently provided to users outside the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and decided to consider the proposal in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium

2004-2005." A question was raised about the benefits that would be derived from the transfer of the Cartographic Section.

10. On subprogramme 2, Mission support, it was noted that the formulation of indicators of achievement and performance measures were well laid out and demonstrated a progression from one biennium to the other. It was suggested that that presentation should be followed in the other subprogrammes of the Department. The importance of a more rapid liquidation process and timely settling of claims of troop-contributing countries was emphasized. The decision to include these indicators of achievement under subprogramme 2 was lauded, as they were essential for the participation of developing countries in future peacekeeping operations.

11. The Department was commended for its thoroughness in respect of the process of filling posts and it was stated that priority should be given to staff from troop-contributing countries, since they contributed to the work of peacekeeping.

12. In respect of subprogramme 3, Military and civilian police advice and planning, the efforts to enhance the security and safety of peacekeepers in the field were welcomed. Enhancing United Nations capacity to deploy peacekeeping operations within 30 days, or 90 days, was necessary; however, it was dependent on three critical and interdependent aspects of rapid deployment, namely, personnel, materiel readiness and funding.

13. The need for continued dialogue between the Department and Member States on how to further improve the rapid deployment capacity of the military, civilian police and civilian components of peacekeeping operations was recognized.

14. The view was expressed that the performance measures in table 5.16 could be improved by indicating the number of Member States that had enlisted in the standby arrangements and by reflecting the overall percentage use of the mechanism.

15. In respect of subprogramme 4, Mine action coordination, queries were raised on the link between the indicator of achievement and the expected accomplishment presented in table 5.18. It was pointed out, however, that lower requirements for inter-agency assessment missions did result from reduction of the threat posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in affected countries.

16. Under programme support, the view was expressed that item (b) of the third sentence of paragraph 5.43 should be deleted since the proposal contained therein was contrary to the provision of General Assembly resolution 57/24 of 19 November 2002.

17. In connection with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), it was pointed out that the mandate of the mission was to report on the instances of non-compliance by the parties to the ceasefire and peace agreements. The indicators of achievement in table 5.23 should therefore indicate how effectively UNTSO responded to instances of non-compliance by the parties to the ceasefire and peace agreements and to the incidents in the area of separation/Blue Line. As to the indicator of achievement for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in table 5.27, it should indicate how effectiveness and efficiency would be improved.

18. Concern was expressed in connection with the request of UNTSO for delayed furniture and equipment purchases for the mission. It was noted that UNTSO had

operated without those expenditures and had not made a convincing case for their being necessary.

19. In connection with UNMOGIP, it was observed that the proposal in paragraph 5.58 providing an explanation of the increase under non-post objects of expenditure did not respond to a legislative mandate. It was pointed out that the increase in expenditures was related to enhanced security measures of the United Nations personnel and was consistent with the overall increase in the expenditures of peacekeeping operations in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

20. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 5.5

(a) Before the last sentence, insert the following sentence: "The Department will also continue to improve representation of underrepresented and unrepresented Member States in future recruitment";

(b) In the fifth sentence, delete the word "also";

Table 5.9

(a) Under expected accomplishment (c), after the phrase "gender issues", insert the phrase "and their geographical balance";

(b) Under indicator of achievement (c), after the phrase "gender issues", insert the phrase "and their geographical balance".

Table 5.12

(a) Under indicator of achievement (i): performance measure: target 2004-2005, replace the phrase "10 weeks" with the phrase "8 weeks";

(b) Under indicator of achievement (ii): performance measure: target 2004-2005, replace the phrase "80 per cent of benchmarks" with the phrase "100 per cent of benchmarks within expected time frame".

Table 5.14

Under indicator of achievement (b) (ii): performance measure: target 2004-2005, replace the phrase "6 months" with the phrase "4 months".

Table 5.16

(a) For indicator of achievement (a) (ii), reword the text to read: "An increase in the number of Member States with which the Secretariat has concluded standby arrangements";

(b) Under indicator of achievement (b), reword the performance measures to read:

"2000-2001: __ per cent of all personnel deployment needs met by utilizing the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) and rapid deployment levels or the on-call list"

"Estimate 2002-2003: __ per cent of all personnel deployment needs met by utilizing UNSAS and rapid deployment levels or the on-call list"

"Target 2004-2005: __ per cent of all personnel deployment needs met by utilizing UNSAS and rapid deployment levels or the on-call list".

Paragraph 5.29

Delete paragraph 5.29.

Paragraph 5.39

Replace paragraph 5.39 with the following: "The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that the Mine Action Service receives an adequate level of resources to respond to General Assembly and Security Council mandates."

21. **The Committee emphasized the need for programme managers of this section to comply with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).**